THE SUNNY SOUTH.

ABOUT FLORIDA ONCE MORE—ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

I receive so many inquiries about Florida that I find it impossible to answer them except in a public way, and even now I shall not attempt a reply to any but a few of the most important.

An old acquaintance writes for "your counsel," for a friend.

In the first place, then, I "counsel" no one, sick or well, to go to Florida, or any other Southern State, unless satisfied that it is for his interest. He must draw his own inferences from my statements.

"I must tell you that my friend is married, and has two young children."

All the better; there is room in Florida for a million of such. It is a great State; as large as New-York, and as unsettled and uncultivated as the latter was a hundred years ago.

"Is there much wild land in Florida?"

Wild land!! Why, man, it is *all* wild, except here and there little patches that are cultivated. I think that three-fourths of the original forest is still untouched, notwithstanding the many men and mills doing their best to destroy the timber. It is sad to see so much of it wasted. Vast tracts of land, once cultivated by the old Spanish or English planters, while those Governments possessed the country, have become covered again with wood. Large plantations, cultivated by slaves, after their owners had robbed Spain of the territory, were destroyed during the Seminole war, and are now wilderness. Many plantations that were flourishing, in the Southern sense, before the Rebellion, will soon return to their original condition, unless rescued by some other and greater power than the owners can command. If by "wild land," you mean "Government land," I answer: There is much of it still subject to entry, owned by the United States, by the State, and by railroad companies. There are also numerous tracts, known as "old Spanish grants." Some of these have good titles.

"Are you acquainted with the price of land at, or in the vicinity of Cedar Keys and Fernandina Railroad?"

Yes. That road owns a large tract of land, as good as the average in the State. The company has offered to give small tracts to settlers, and to sell large tracts at about a dollar an acre. It is mostly covered with pine timber—"long leaf pine"—*Pinus palustris*. Yellow pine lumber—"Georgia pine," is made from this variety.

"Are the forest trees generally large in Florida?"

No. Compared with white pines, such as used to grow on the Connecticut, on the Susquehanna, or on the Delaware, the yellow pines are small; generally, a good lot of logs will average from 18 to 24 inches in diameter. It is difficult to get long timber. Fifty-feet sticks are rare.

"Are there any other timber trees than pine? Any oaks?"

Yes, to both questions. The best ship timber that grows, the live oak, *quercus virens*, is abundant; it was once protected for Government use, but it has been badly wasted, since; the land is always rich where it grows. The water oak, *quercus aquatica*, is nearly allied to live oak, and more common. It grows rapidly when transplanted, even in dry sandy soil. The streets of Jacksonville are lined with these oaks. I counted 21 rings upon a stump, about 20 inches diameter, from which the tree was cut last Spring. Black-jack and white oak, as well as maple, elm, ash, and hickory trees are also common. Cypresses abound upon all the water-courses. They flourish on overflowed bottoms, and swampy lands, from which it is difficult to get the timber out, as the green logs will not float, and the water does not freeze. Upon the gulf side of the Peninsula there is considerable cedar, a valuable wood, large quantities of which are used by the pencil manufacturers. The Cedar Keys take their name from these trees. The cabbage-tree, cabbage-palm, or palmetto grows along all the streams in the south part of the State. It does not flourish along the St. Johns, until you pass Lake George, 150 miles from the mouth. This tree is nearly worthless. Occasionally it grows thickly enough to cover the surface, but is generally scattered among other timber, near the river bank, or on the shores of lakes, and not unfrequently in solitary groups upon islands or savannas. The wild orange flourishes south of Lake George, generally upon tracts of shell-land, which appears to have been formed entirely of snail-shells, only slightly decomposed.

"What are the general crops?"

Cotton, both upland and Sea Island, has ever been the great commercial crop, and its cultivation is generally profitable, though some Northern men who have engaged in cotton-planting since the war have suffered seriously in their crops from worms, rust, blight, which often sweep away a whole Summer's work like a fire. Of late the business has been precarious. Corn grows everywhere, but does not yield abundantly—10 or 15 bushels per acre; it is also liable to destruction by weevil, in the field or crib. Tobacco, as good as that produced in Cuba, has been raised in the north part of the State, where the land is somewhat clayey and surface rolling. In Gadsdon, Leon, Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton Counties, its culture has been exceedingly profitable. Sweet potatoes are cultivated with ease in all parts of the State, affording a great supply of cheap food for man and beast. Hogs and fowls are fattened from them. Peanuts may be raised everywhere, but never have been cultivated extensively for export. They would make a profitable crop. Sugar-cane, of all the cultivated products of Florida, has probably given the best returns for the labor and money expended. It is not, however, much cultivated. I do not know of a single great sugar-plantation, like those of Louisiana, in the State. While the English held possession, between the years 1762 and 1784, some extensive sugar-plantations were established. Then it was supposed that only drained swamp lands were favorable for cane. During the Seminole war, 1835-42, the American sugar estates were all destroyed, and immense trees grow among the ruins of great sugar-houses, and crumbling masses of machinery. It requires less capital and less experience to establish a cotton-plantation, and, as that business has been satisfactorily profitable, cotton has been the staple, while sugar has been neglected. More than half the land-owners, however, raise cane, and make sirup for their own use, and a little for the market. There are also a few sugar works on a small scale; frequently, however, these are not as large as some maple-sugar works in Vermont. At these, the very best quality of sugar and sirup is made, and, if we may judge from the following figures, the manufacture is profitable: At Federal Point, on the St. Johns, below Pilatka, last year (1868), one man planted an acre and three-fourths of cane, upon ordinary pine land, which had been "cow-penned"—that is had had cattle yarded upon it so as to give it a slight manuring. His crop was 24 barrels of sugar and 10 barrels of sirup, besides 5,000 seed-canes sold at $15 a thousand, and 1,500 reserved for his own use. Another man planted nine acres of hammock land, which had been "cropped" four years without manure. His product was 43 barrels of sugar, 10 barrels of sirup, and 10,000 seed canes. One planting of cane gives three crops. The labor of cultivation is about the same as corn, and cost of manufacture, equal to that of cutting, hauling, and grinding a crop of corn-stalks, and boiling the juice. If the land is manured as Northern men manure corn, it is pretty sure to yield an average of 1,000 pounds of sugar to the acre, and molasses in proportion. It has often yielded 2,000 pounds.

"If sugar-making is as profitable in Florida as I have seen it stated that it is, why isn't more sugar made?"

I answer in Yankee-style. If silver-mining is as profitable as I have seen it stated that is at White Pine, why don't you go and mine it. Perhaps, with only $1,000 capital, you will find it difficult to start a Florida sugar-plantation, particularly, if, as you say, you have "no experience as a farmer." Yet, I will tell you here, that you can make a good start with $1,000 in any one of various employments in which industry will insure you a living. You cannot expect to make a fortune, nor suddenly to accumulate great wealth. Florida, like all other new countries, is in need of industrious men, and for their labor comfortable homes are offered, and sure gain guaranteed.

"What part of the State would you recommend me to settle in?"

That depends upon what you intend to do. For a Winter residence, I greatly prefer East Florida, and am quite satisfied with Jacksonville, as I presume I should be with any other point on the St. Johns. On some accounts, residence would be preferable at Fernandina, St. Augustine, Musketo Inlet, Indian River, or some other point along the Atlantic coast. If I intended to become a cotton-planter, I should settle in one of the Northern counties, or in one of that tier lying midway between the gulf and sea. All of these have a somewhat rolling surface, with loamy soil, or black hammock land, some of which would be exceedingly productive of sugar and tobacco as well as cotton. Not one-half of these counties has ever been cultivated, and the surface only of the land once planted has been skimmed over. Surface and underdraining, irrigation, and deep plowing, in heavy lands, with liberal manuring, will yet make this State wonderfully productive. Upon some of the poorest sandy soil experiments have demonstrated that all the fertilization needed may be derived from irrigation. Along the St. Johns, this must be accomplished as in Egypt, by artificial means. As the wind blows across the peninsula almost constantly one way or the other, it is obvious that a cheap elevating power is at hand. Whenever it is used, this desert will become as fruitful as the valley of the Nile.

"Are there any large towns in Florida?"

No. Jacksonville contains an average population of about 6,000 (half colored). There is no other town half as large.

"What kind of a place is Jacksonville?"

My friend, are you aware that you have put a hard question? "What kind of a place?" in what respect—politically, morally, religiously, socially, geographically, geologically, or for business, health, or pleasure? Politically, it is like the State, Republican, if the carpet-baggers who have possession of the government of the State are worthy of that name. I consider them generally as a pretty hard lot, who, for the sake of office, are willing to pander to the old Rebel element, which, without such nursing, would soon die out. In Jacksonville, the Northern element, combined with the colored, forms the ruling power. Morally, the place might be improved. It is a kind of head-center for lazy, vicious vagabonds, who, when full of rum, act like other men of the same class. Fortunately, that class in Jacksonville is in a minority, which could soon be annihilated, if the honest portion of the community would exercise their power and banish the rum-shops. Religiously the place stands fairly. Of church-buildings there are a Congregationalist, a Baptist, a Methodist, an Episcopal, and a Roman Catholic. Meetings are also held by the Congregationalists (Southern), Universalists, Adventists, and perhaps others. There are one colored Baptist and two colored Methodist churches, and a few Jews, but not enough to form a synagogue.

Socially, the place is all that could be desired by a visitor from the North, as I presume that is what you wish to know. Geographically considered, I refer you to the map. You will find Jacksonville in Duval County, which lies almost in the north-east corner of the State, between latitude 30° and 31°; consequently, it is just on the edge of the semi-tropical region. Geologically the north part of the State, 100 miles west of the ocean, is underlaid by cave lime-stone; the South part of the State is based upon coral reefs; in the central portions and near the coast, "coquina rocks" are found. These are composed of conglomerated shells, so firmly cemented that blocks are easily quarried, hewn, and used for building-stone. The old fort, and many other buildings at St. Augustine, are made of coquina. At Jacksonville, there is no stone nor clay, but bricks are made of a sort of cemented sand found in some places. The whole region is apparently a vast sea-deposit of sand, but this sand being almost as fine as flour, and largely composed of powdered shells, is remarkably fertile, whenever mixed with the natural humus of vegetation, or artificially manured. The particles being flat, the surface neither drifts nor is cut into gullies, and being so largely composed of lime it absorbs moisture rapidly, so that neither dust nor mud are troublesome. While the land does not suffer severely from drouth, it is wonderfully benefited by irrigation. For business, I suppose Jacksonville equals any other thriving, rapidly-growing town. It has the trade of an extensive, but very sparsely settled region. Pine-lumber is extensively manufactured for exportation, and it should be the shipping-port for three-fourths of the cotton and other products grown in the State. I think it will be soon.

Health and pleasure go together. Where the first fails, the last will, most surely. You must judge of the healthfulness of a place from its climate. There is great evenness of temperature here, the mean by Fahrenheit's thermometer for 20 years being 69° 52'. The mean temperature during January was 55° 02', February, 58° 03', July, 81° 93', August, 81° 98'. During no January of those years was the mean temperature below 47° 60', and during no August above 84° 69'. The yearly mean temperature of another period of 20 years at St. Augustine was 69° 61'; although that place is nearly three-fourths of a degree further south than Jacksonville, the average heat was only nine minutes greater. The evenness of Florida temperature has always been noted as remarkable. Ice has been formed at Jacksonville but a few times since it was settled by Europeans. The thermometer rarely falls below 40°, or rises above 90°. In the shade the heat is not so oppressive as at New-York, but a slight degree of cold is felt more. Fires are not only comfortable during most of the days in Winter, but on some of them, particularly morning and evening, a house would be uncomfortable that had no fire-places. Woolen garments and blankets are indispensable, even in Summer, as the nights are cool. During the Winter and Spring the climate is absolutely dry. But little rain falls, and fogs are unusual. The rainy season comes in Summer, during July and August. The average rain-fall during 10 years was 47.958 inches. The average, during the same period, of the month of July was 7.615; of August, 7.705; January, 2.599; February, 2.958; while in November it was only 1.987, showing that month to be the dryest of the year. Is it necessary to say anything further to assure any rational being that such a region must be healthful, unless the hygienic laws are grossly violated. For pulmonary, cutaneous, rheumatic, and other diseases requiring out-door exercise, I recommend a residence in Florida. Bilious diseases of a light type are common there, but colds, coughs, influenza, and typhoid fevers, such as are often so fatal in New-England, do not prevail there. It is my deliberate opinion, then, that Florida is generally healthier than any Northern State, and that the climate, eight months of the year, from October to June, is the most delightful that can be found, at least in any of the Atlantic States. The temperature and general condition of the atmosphere is like that on one of our pleasant Spring days, leaving out the rain. During a six-months' residence at Jacksonville, last Winter, I never saw one stormy day. Rain fell at night, and three times only it continued till toward noon. Carpenters worked at their benches out-doors month after month. Roses bloomed in the gardens every day, and every day invalids sat out-doors sunning themselves. Yet almost every evening they found themselves equally comfortable basking in the blaze from an open fire-place. Now, have I answered your question satisfactorily? Then let us proceed with the next gentleman, who wants to know:

"What is the cost of reaching the place where you live in Florida?"

By steamer, via Charleston, Savannah, or Fernandina, thence by rail or smaller steamer, the first-class fare is $30, time about four days. By rail all the way, via Washington and Weldon, or, via "The Bay Route" and Weldon, Wilmington, Manchester, Augusta, and Savannah, to Jacksonville, fare $40, beside food and lodging; time three days. You can also go by rail to Charleston, thence by good steamers (Dictator and City Point), on Tuesdays and Fridays. From Savannah and Fernandina, there are also two other steamers (the Lizzy Baker and Nick King), and there are four or five lines of steamers from New-York, and numerous sailing vessels, which carry freight and passengers at low rates.

"Is transportation furnished free by any association to actual settlers?"

No. Several Southern railroads make deductions. It often costs more in detention, however, than the deductions are worth.

"What could a young man with a wife and child and a capital of $1,000 do in Florida?"

Do! why buy land; build a house; cultivate the soil; raise all the food he needs and grow rich on the surplus. Or, he might hang around some town, spend his money, live uncomfortably, get sick and die disgusted with the country. He could "do" anything that an enterprising young man can do in any civilized country, that is greatly in need of capital and ability to use it.

"My friend is a good clerk, and remarkably well informed upon internal revenue affairs, etc."

In my opinion he would stand a better chance if he was informed in any other business; since there is but little revenue collectable from a poverty stricken people.

"Are the negroes troublesome? will they work?"

Yes and No, to both questions. There are vagabonds among negroes, as well as among whites. Such always trouble industry. The industrious portion are good faithful laborers. God help the whites if they were not. For industry is upon the colored side, most certainly.

"Are Northern people quite safe in that part of Florida?"

Safe, from what? Molestation from those once their enemies? Yes; safer than in New-York City, where the same men who mobbed your houses during the war are still in your midst, and far more ready to mob you again than the Southerners are to fight.

"What is the cost of supporting a family frugally, in your part of Florida?"

I can only answer this most interesting of all the questions, so far as regards myself. For a family of three persons, keeping one servant, you may take the following figures as a basis of calculation.

From the first of January to the middle of June, the total cost of food for this family, was	$192 31
All other housekeeping expenses	96 16
Total for, say 22 weeks	$288 48

Or exactly $4 a week for each person, not counting anything for rent, as I built the house I occupied. Of course, the first season is most expensive, and though we lived "frugally," we did not not live meanly. Dispensing with a servant would reduce expenses. You can see by my account, and I have all the items, that living in Florida is not extravagant, although it is a luxury. I wish every afflicted soul could enjoy it as much as I do, and be benefited as much. I was completely prostrated by overwork, dyspepsia, and suffering from the cold and storms of Winter. I did not feel as though I could endure through another Winter, such colds, coughs, neuralgia, want of breath and general discomfort, and so I went to Florida and have spent part of three Winters there, with manifest benefit. I do not urge any other person to pursue my course; I only state facts. I have no interest whatever, except for humanity, in settling Florida.

SOLON ROBINSON.

THE STATE CANALS.

CONVENTION OF MERCHANTS INTERESTED IN REFORM—ORGANIZATION OF A "COMMERCIAL UNION."

The Convention of delegates from the various Boards of Trade and of individuals throughout the State interested in reforming the canal management and improving the canal trade was held Tuesday, at the rooms of the Citizens' Association, No. 813 Broadway, in this city, pursuant to the call made on Sept. 17 last by the joint Committees of the Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and the New-York Produce Exchange. The Convention was called at 10 o'clock a. m., and no persons were admitted except those who presented invitations of the joint Committees, or who bore credentials from trade organizations. All the prominent and some of the lesser cities and towns along the line of the canals were represented, and the meeting was large and earnest. Mr. Jeremiah P. Robinson was elected President of the Convention, and Mr. Joseph F. Daly Secretary. Addresses were made by ex-Mayor Fish of Rochester, Messrs. Niles of Buffalo, Duganne of New-York, Lacy of Albany, Messrs. Nathaniel Sands, James P. Wallace, and Edward Hincken of New-York, Messrs. Niles, Case, and W. H. Barclay of Buffalo, Mr. Peter Cooper, and others. The Convention unanimously resolved that an organization must be formed among those persons interested through the State in the reform of the canal system and trade, which organization should extend along the whole line of the canals, and have for its object the protection of the canals and their trade, and the prosecution of corrupt and neglectful canal officials. A committee of six, with the President and Secretary, was appointed to prepare and submit a plan of organization. This committee returned after a long session, and reported a complete system of secret organization among persons interested in the canal trade. This plan was unanimously adopted by the Convention. The leading features of the plan are: A State Central Committee of nine persons, having its headquarters in one of the principal cities of the State, whence, as a base of operations, its movements against the fraudulent contractors and corrupt officials of the canal ring are to proceed; this committee is vested with power to call conventions and delegates from localities at such times and places as may be proper, in order to decide on any plan of operations in the Legislature or elsewhere. A corps of trusty agents (unknown to each other) are to be set upon short sections of the canals, night and day, to collect evidence against contractors, officials, thieves, &c., who make daily reports with sworn affidavits sufficient to base charges and impeachments upon. In every village, town, and city of the State on the line of the canals local executive committees are to be established, who employ local detectives and agents to follow the tracks of officials and contractors, to gather proofs, &c., and to forward sworn affidavits to the central committee to be used in prosecutions of the delinquents. The system has other details, but these points will give an idea of its completeness and excellent working plan. The Central Committee was immediately elected by the Convention, with hearty unanimity; this important body contains representatives from every section of the State. Its President and Secretary was also chosen. The local executive committees are to be nominated from the different localities in a special manner so as to exclude enemies of reform, and the State is to be thoroughly organized so as to bring in over 50,000 members of the "Commercial Union of the State of New-York" (as the new organization is called) by the 1st of December, so as to move in the next Legislature. The Convention then unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, The peculiar circumstances under which the Canal system of the State of New-York is now placed, requires that a general organization of the friends of that system shall be effected throughout the State for the purpose of freeing the canal commerce from the abuses under which it has long suffered, and improving the canals and their management in such manner as to render greater service to the public on more economical terms for the transaction of the vast commerce between the Western States and the Atlantic seaboard; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention of Delegates, representing the Canal interests of different sections of the State, heartily concurs in the general objects of the memorial presented last year to the Legislature, on behalf of the State Canals Convention; and that the State Central Committee now elected by this Convention be, and it is hereby instructed to take all suitable measures for promoting the general objects contemplated by that memorial, by presenting to the next Legislature a similar memorial including, among other important objects, the speedy completion of the few unfinished points in the enlargement of the Canals so as to render the whole work more effective in quickening and cheapening transportation, and also the reduction of the rates of toll, so as to enable our Canals better to transact the commerce between the Atlantic and interior States—and likewise the abolition of the contract system for keeping the Canals in repair, which system has been productive of such enormous difficulties and corruption. And be it further

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Legislature that the canal debt of this State, now about nine millions of dollars, shall be funded for a term of eighteen years, and that the tolls shall be reduced to the lowest practicable sum, thus enabling our canal system to present the cheapest possible means of commercial intercourse between the Atlantic seaboard and the States of the great West.

After a harmonious, in fact an enthusiastic, session of seven hours, the Convention adjourned with a determination on the part of every member to return to his special locality and commence the work in earnest. The Citizens' Association has agreed to furnish the necessary counsel to prepare the prosecutions, impeachments, and charges, &c., against officials, and is to give its engineering force to the work of canal inspection.

The speeches made by the delegates from the canal districts present a most dismal picture of the state of the canal trade, and show that losses of many hundreds of thousands of dollars have occurred every week this season, owing to the neglect and misdoing of the contractors and officials.

The Central Committee of the new "Commercial Union" met immediately after the Convention adjourned, and opened the campaign against corruption and official imbecility by several important steps.

HELL GATE.

Prof. Maillefert formally began work on Way's Reef, Hell Gate, on the 15th of July, but did not commence active operations until the 2d of August. From the Government surveys it was calculated that 2,900 cubic feet of rock would have to be got out of the way to obtain the depth of 25 feet at low water, required by Messrs. Maillefert & Co.'s contract. Prof. Maillefert, up to yesterday noon, had discharged on the reef 279 blasts, viz.: 248 canisters of gunpowder of 112 lb each; 7 canisters of "Oriental Compound" of 75 lb each, and 24 canisters of "Giant" powder (nitro-glycerine mixed with sand). The results of these blasts have not disappointed expectations. There have been raised up and carried ashore 21 scow loads of rock, of 75 cubic yards each, or 1,575 cubic yards in all. As quantities of fragments remain scattered on the bottom, or have been washed away by the tide, these 1,575 cubic yards, or 3,000 tuns do not measure the total execution which has been done. Prof. Maillefert says that a ridge of hard quartz of about 12 feet in thickness runs the whole length of the reef. Its top is about 18 feet below the surface at low water. The Professor intends to continue blasting away on each side of this ridge until he has reached the prescribed depth, and then topple over the quartz with a few heavy charges. The remainder of the reef is now reduced so that there is 22 feet over every part of it, and in many places 25 feet and even more. Day before yesterday the Professor exploded simultaneously 12 charges of nitro-glycerine, distributed at different points upon the reef. The sight which followed of an immense dome of water 200 feet in diameter, bursting almost immediately into a fountain of spray, and rolling great waves to the shore, was truly magnificent. The Professor has also discharged 44 blasts on Shelldrake, and removed thence two scow loads of fragments. On Pot Rock 15 blasts have been made. A visit to Astoria any day will enable any person of ordinary intelligence to comprehend the plan on which the professor's operations are conducted. As Prof. Maillefert has not contracted to advance science, but to remove sunken rocks, he may be pardoned for being unscientific, provided he clears the channel.

METROPOLITAN FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Fire Commissioners yesterday, Mr. William Burns, Superintendent of Horses, transmitted property returns for the quarter ending Sept. 30, and they were referred to the Property Clerk. The Committee on the Storage of Combustibles reported the annexed list of persons upon whose premises was found kerosene oil below the standard test required by law:

Oct. 9	John G. Jenny, No. 469 Seventh-ave	94
Oct. 5	Edward Fischer & Bro., No. 369 Greenwich-st	94
Oct. 5	Thomas Magher, No. 20 Greenwich-st	94
Oct. 14	Henry Sander, No. 172 Elizabeth-st	78
Oct. 14	Henry Roes, No. 134 Elizabeth-st	95
Oct. 15	David Babcock & Co., No. 68 West-st	93
Oct. 15	Arthur Goodspeed, No. 46 West-st	94
Oct. 14	Henry T. White, No. 134 Mott-st	94
Oct. 14	Charles Thomas, No. 139 Mott-st	95
Oct. 16	Frederick Krebling, No. 269 Bowery	94
Oct. 16	Frank March, No. 130 First-ave	93
Oct. 15	David D. O'Connor, No. 10 Washington-st	65
Oct. 15	George Hancke, No. 34 Rector-st	94
Oct. 14	Francis Murphy, No. 27 Prince-st	95
Oct. 15	William Gallagher, No. 99½ Washington-st	94

The usual resolution was then adopted, authorizing the commencement of legal proceedings for the recovery of penalties, and to cause the removal of the violations. Letters from holders of patents were then read recommending the use of their wares, and the Board adjourned. Subsequently, the Committee on Appointments for the trial of delinquents tried a number of firemen on charges of neglect of duty in various shapes, the decisions in all cases being reserved.

INTERNAL REVENUE IN BROOKLYN.

The various Railroad, Gas, Ferry and Insurance companies and the places of amusement in Brooklyn made the following return for the month ending October 15, 1869, to the Assessor of Internal Revenue of the Second Collection District:

RAILROADS.	
Brooklyn, Hunter's Point and Prospect Park Co.	$11,447 00
Van Brunt-st. and Erie Railroad	2,044 00
Brooklyn, Bath and Coney Island Railroad	3,979 00
Coney Island and Brooklyn Railroad	14,611 00
Brooklyn and Rockaway Railroad Company	3,140 00
Brooklyn City and Newtown Railroad	12,037 00
Sackett, Hoyt and Bergen-st. Railroad	1,613 00
Bushwick-ave. Railroad Company	6,278 00
GAS COMPANIES.	
Williamsburgh Gas Light Company, feet	1,117,114
Union Gas Light Company	231,900
Flatbush Gas Company	345,181
FERRIES.	
Greenpoint Ferry Company	$13,157 65
Bay Ridge Ferry Company	628 00
Houston-st. Ferry Company	10,395 00
PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.	
European Circus, E. D.	$705 00
European Circus, W. D.	6,173 00
Atlantic Nine B. B. Club	4,000 00
Cincinnati B. B. Club	618 00
Capitoline B. B. Ground	4,688 00
INSURANCE COMPANIES.	
Atlantic Fire Insurance Company (3 months)	$46,445 00

RELIGIOUS.

AMERICAN BIBLE UNION.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY—REPORT OF SECRETARY WYCKOFF.

The celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the American Bible Union was commenced yesterday in the Baptist Mariners' Temple, at the corner of Oliver and Henry-sts. There was a good attendance from various parts of the United States, and from Europe, and an earnest and liberal spirit was manifested. In the absence of the Rev. Thomas Armitage, D. D., the Rev. Thomas B. Anderson, Vice-President, occupied the chair. At the morning session resolutions were adopted increasing the Executive Committee from 27 to 42 members, and providing for the appointment of a Southern Secretary. With two or three changes, the numerous officers of the Union were reëlected for the ensuing year. B. G. Bloss presented the Treasurer's report, showing that the receipts for the past year have been $58,368 80, and the expenditures $61,715 71, leaving a deficit of $3,346 91.

The Secretary, Wm. H. Wyckoff, read the 20th annual report, of which the following is a synopsis: Man has wandered from his home. He is roving in a desolate wilderness. The bible is God's letter, urging him to return. How precious is this letter of reconciliation to one disposed to accept the proffered kindness! To preserve this letter of love in its integrity, to circulate it in its purity, is the special business of the Bible Union. Upon the faithfulness of the translation of God's word depends the purity of the professed religion of Christ. Men are pious just in proportion as they value God's word, and are controlled by its inculcations. To deny to the people the word of God, except when its true spirit has been evaporated in the alembic of the priesthood, is the very essence of the Romish apostasy. To circulate among the people, as the word of God, expressions and phrases that partake not of that spirit, is a most fearful approximation to the same result. The gulf that was once believed to divide Protestantism from Romanism may easily be spanned by this bridge of error. Treat man's errors as God's word, and all that superstition demands may be readily granted. Dean Alford of the Church of England designates more than 1,000 faulty translations in the Epistles alone. The corrections which he proposes are generally in the very words of our Revised Testament. But if we should suppose that there were only 100 known errors in the Common Version, we know that more than 2,000,000 copies of this version, and, in consequence, more than 2,000,000 copies of these 100 errors are annually printed and circulated in Great Britain and America! These errors appertain to the revelation of such doctrines as: The Godhead of Christ. The death of his people with him. Their justification. Their sanctification. Their title to heaven. Their duty in respect to good works. The grounds of damnation. The origin of prophesy. The nature of penitence. Profanity. The integrity of Jehovah. The consistency of Scripture history. Christ's utterances in the garden and on the cross. It cannot be possible that Christians can be blameless, when they have the power and opportunity to correct errors of these descriptions in a living, widely circulated version of revealed truth, and neglect their duty; but the difficulty is, not to make manifest, and prove beyond contradiction, the numerous errors and defects of the Common Version, but to convince professed Christians of the necessity of correcting them. "If you begin to correct," says one, "you will change 'Easter' to 'Passover,' and our Church will never consent to that." "I have no objections to other corrections, but you must leave the word 'Baptize,'" says another; "if you change *that*, you will raise a world of opposition." "The errors are numerous and manifest," says a third, "but we must wait till the whole Christian world is agreed upon their correction." And when such is the spirit of the age, is it any wonder that some godly men believe that the final apostacy consists in the sin against the Holy Spirit, and this fearful blight upon Christianity is beginning to manifest itself in such indifference, and want of faithfulness in respect to the revealed word of God? On this subject the Bible Union has issued, since the last anniversary, a pamphlet entitled "Revision of the English Scriptures," written by the Corresponding Secretary. We have also published, in the same period, the reply to the Essex South Association, from the same pen. The discussion on the Character and Work of the American Bible Union, between the Rev. C. A. Buckbee and the Rev. Frederick Buel, has been republished, and is now issued under one cover, with the treatise on Revision by the Secretary already mentioned. This double pamphlet comprises about 100 pages, and it is perhaps as well adapted to meet popular prejudice and make friends for the Bible Union, as any publication of the Union. Our Recording Secretary, Brother Buckbee, has returned to California, where he will have permanent charge of the interests of the Bible Union on the Pacific coast. Before he went, he made an effective and successful appeal for a Chinese press, on which the Scriptures will be printed for the Bible Union in China, under our missionary translator, Dr. Lord. The Assistant Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Westcott, resigned his position in December last, and his resignation was accepted by the Board. Protracted ill health has compelled your Treasurer also to resign the office, which he has so long occupied. Large attention continues to be bestowed upon the condition of our Southern States. The need and demand for the gratuitous distribution of the Revised Scriptures among the destitute in that region of our beloved country, increases with the enlarged facilities of elementary education. Improving upon the primary books already issued, we have prepared a book of 130 pages, called the Bible Primer, which gives great satisfaction wherever it is introduced. Many thousands have been printed, and they are used not only at the South, but also at the East and West. For these, and for the Testaments of all sizes, but especially for those prepared for Sunday-schools, the demand for gratuitous distribution always greatly exceeds the means at our disposal. The Spanish Scriptures have assumed a new phase of interest, intense and absorbing. A special correspondence has been opened which is likely to result in the wide-spread dissemination of our Revised Spanish Testament in Spain itself. The Book of Exodus has been revised by Dr. Hackett, with the aid of another eminent scholar. Judges and Ruth, also from the pen of Dr. Hackett, and Joshua, and First and Second Samuel, revised by Dr. Bliss, are finished, and Dr. Bliss is engaged in revising the First Book of Kings. Nearly 100 pages of the Psalms, as revised by Dr. Conant, are in type, and the work of revising and printing is proceeding with energy. Brother Lord has been retarded in his work, the translation of the testament into the Chinese character and the Ningpo Colloquial, but is resuming his labors with vigor. An Indian version, the translation of the Gospel by Matthew into the Maya tongue, the language of a tribe of American Indians, has been forwarded to us in manuscript by the translator, the Rev. Alexander Henderson of Belize, Honduras. The Rev. A. Wiberg, the Oncken of Sweden, has addressed to us a long and deeply interesting letter, under date of Sept. 7, 1869, pressing upon the Bible Union some of the strongest reasons for revising the Swedish version of the Sacred Scriptures. The tide of wrong and error has not been stayed. But a rampart of rocks has been erected to break its current, and thus attracts attention to its force. And the steady growth of this rampart occasions alarm among the conservative advocates of error. And well it may. For the time is coming when the views and principles of the Bible Union will be known as distinguishing the friends of Jesus and his truth from the lovers of expediency and the supporters of error. And then it will be seen, and felt, and acknowledged, that this organization, beginning in apparent feebleness, nursed by prayer and strengthened by faith, laying deep its foundations in the imperishable nature and unchangeable character of God's inspired truth, was the instrumentality in the hand of the Spirit of all grace, by direct action and indirect influence, to effect that grand and glorious consummation so devoutly to be wished, as expressed in the words of our loved Constitution: *"To procure and circulate the most faithful versions of the Sacred Scriptures in all languages throughout the world."*

This report was followed by fervent and interesting addresses by the Rev. J. C. Hurd of Medford, Mass.; the Rev. W. P. Yeaman of this city, and the Rev. J. C. Wightman of Cambridge, Mass. The Rev. Dr. Conant then made some remarks upon the superior aids for translation afforded by the manuscripts now possessed, which are from 600 to 800 years older than any to which King James's translators had access. Only about 20 manuscripts were used by them, whereas we have now more than 2,000, and we enjoy, therefore, vastly greater facilities for ascertaining the true text of God's Word. For more than two hundred years scholars have had one New Testament and the common people another, and now we mean that the common people shall have the same Bible that scholars have, despite the prejudices against innovation on this point. In editing the Greek text of the Book of Revelation, Erasmus had only one Greek manuscript, and that was mutilated. It was defective at the end, and was so constructed that it was exceedingly difficult to read, in consequence of a commentary which ran along on the same line—a few words of text and then a few words of commentary. Erasmus or his copyists repeatedly confounded the two, and published as the text of the inspired writer part of the text of the commentator. Moreover, where the text was defective, he took the liberty of translating from the Latin Vulgate, and publishing this translation as the inspired text of John. Erasmus's manuscript was supposed for a long time to be irretrievably lost, but it was at length discovered and its identity fully established. All these circumstances have been repeatedly published; but, strange as it may seem, scarcely a ripple of excitement has been produced by the knowledge of the startling fact that in repeated instances we are reading in the Book of Revelation as the Word of God what Erasmus manufactured in 1516, in the City of Basle, in Switzerland!

At the afternoon session, the President announced Committees on Obituaries, on the Chinese Scriptures, on the Psalms, on the Books of Joshua, Judges, and First Samuel, on the Southern Field, and on the Circulation of the Spanish Scriptures. The Treasurer's report was then taken up for consideration, and the financial condition of the Bible Union was discussed at length by Messrs. Smith, Bloss, Hillman, Root, Wyckoff, and others. The importance of making up the deficit of more than $3,000 was eloquently urged, and the sum of $1,735 80 was subscribed toward this end. The officers of the Union were praised for their self-denial in voluntarily reducing their salaries; much was said of the revised edition as a means of opposing the progress of Romanism among the Freedmen of the South, and various instances were cited in which eminent Pedobaptist scholars and divines have lately borne cordial testimony to its value and correctness. The Rev. Thomas Price of Aberdare, Wales, followed with an eloquent address upon the progress of Bible revision in his own country and England, and with a hearty eulogy of Baptist missionaries and translators. "Baby baptism" was frequently alluded to in a satirical vein, and the work of the American Bible Union received a due amount of laudation.

In the evening a large audience assembled and listened with interest to able and appropriate addresses from the Rev. W. Cathcart, D. D., of Philadelphia, and the Rev. George C. Lorimer, D. D., of Albany. The anniversary exercises, including reports, discussions, and addresses, will be continued and concluded to-day, at the same place, in three sessions, commencing respectively at 9 a. m., and at 2½ and 7½ p. m.

CONVENTION FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN UNION AMONG THE CHURCHES.

Some months ago the General Synod of the Reformed Church issued an invitation to all the evangelical denominations in the country to send delegates to meet in council to devise means of uniting the various churches, and extending the Gospel throughout the world. The Convention met yesterday at 3 p. m. in the Washington-square Reformed Church in this city. The attendance both of ladies and gentlemen was large. About 40 clergymen were present, among them the Rev. Dr. Matthews of the Dutch Reformed Church in this city, and Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, the Rev. Dr. Crosby of the Fourth-ave. Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Harris, Missionary Secretary of the Methodist Church; the Rev. A. S. Hunt of Brooklyn; Dr. Taylor, Secretary of the Bible Society, and the Rev. C. D. Foss of the Methodist Episcopal Church, C. Blake, Pastor of the Free Baptist Church; Dr. Waterbury of the Episcopal Church; Dr. Wedekind of St. James; Dr. Newton of Philadelphia, and Dr. S. S. Schmucker of Gettysburg. The Rev. Dr. Matthews, who is over 80 years old, but still hale and vigorous, was elected Temporary Chairman. On taking his seat, the venerable Chairman made a few remarks, in which he bade them all a cordial welcome, and stated the object of the meeting; it was "to effect a union between the Christians of whatever denominations, and to adopt whatever measures may seem wise and proper to bring into harmonious action the whole Church." If we ever get near to Heaven, it is when we lay aside all considerations but that of our fellowship with our Master, and our fellowship with each other through Him. To-day we devote to God, to prayer, and to fellowship with each other. The Rev. Dr. Schmucker, Professor of Theology at Gettysburg, then read the 21st chapter of John, and made appropriate remarks thereon. Prayer was offered by Dr. Crosby. He was followed by the Rev. Mr. Gallier, who said that he had long been convinced that the Christian Church needed above all things to be drawn together in the cause of Christian unity, and to present to the world an unbroken front. The nearer we get to Christ the nearer we are to each other. Just as the rays draw together as they near the sun, so do Christians, as they approach the Savior, come nearer to each other. The Rev. Dr. Wedekind, Pastor of St. James, then offered prayer; after which the Rev. Dr. Newton of Philadelphia was called to the chair, and expressed his satisfaction at this new movement, and his conviction that, while he thought the Church must always be divided in opinions and forms, yet those differences might be made, as it were, harmonious, and no cause of unpleasantness. The Doctor's words were well received. The Rev. Dr. Waterbury succeeded with some well-chosen remarks in the same spirit, and offered a fervent prayer for the Divine blessing upon the proceedings of the Convention. The meeting then adjourned until this morning, at 9½ o'clock, when the first half hour will be devoted to devotional exercises, and the organization of the Convention will commence at 10 o'clock.

OPENING OF ST. ANN'S CHURCH BROOKLYN.

Early yesterday morning, the bells of the new St. Ann's Church told the people in that vicinity that another church was about to be opened to the service of God. A few hours later the bells chimed, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and about 10 o'clock the doors of the church were thrown open. Policemen were stationed at the entrances to preserve order, and to prevent crowding. The people came in large numbers and it was not long before every inch of available space was occupied. A portion of the pews in the center of the house were reserved for the invited clergy. Hundreds were unable to gain even an entrance, but they bore their disappointment good naturedly, and went their way. The reporters who were fortunate enough to get through the crowded aisles found reserved seats in the gallery, near the chancel. The appearance of the interior of the edifice is truly magnificent, and the scene presented yesterday was one to be remembered. Before the hour for the regular service had arrived, the organist played several voluntaries much to the delight of the congregation. The bronzed pillars, with their vine-crowned caps, and the great organ with its pipes of blue, red, and gold, contrasted beautifully with the colored glass and frescoed walls. Crimson and purple sunlight came streaming through the windows. The organ gallery was literally packed with singers. At 11½ o'clock the Bishop and the clergy came marching in procession up the middle aisle to the chancel, where the Bishops and a number of the clergymen took back seats. The choir then sang the opening anthem, "Holy, Holy, Holy," with fine effect. While the Rev. Dr. Bancroft was reading a description of the temple at Jerusalem, the congregation closely examined the decorations on the walls. At last the Bishop of Ohio took his stand at the polished brass lectern, and opened the manuscript of his inaugural sermon. It was bound in velvet covers. Printed slips were handed to the reporters.

But few people were able to understand a word of the discourse, and many retired before it was ended, for it was very long. The Holy Communion was administered after the offertory, and the usual preliminary communion services were concluded. Mr. J. M. Loretz, jr., presided at the organ in a manner that gave great satisfaction. The opening anthem and the Te Deum were beautiful. The organ is not quite finished, but the soft, liquid tones of yesterday left nothing more to be wished for. The quartette was composed of Miss Anaïde Mermier, soprano; Miss S. Bresee, alto; Mr. Eugene Ellery, tenor; Mr. Frederic Salmson, bass. At the close the Gloria in Excelsis was sung, after which the Bishop of Long Island pronounced the Benediction. In the afternoon the Rector, Warden, and Vestrymen of the Church gave a reception at the house of the Pastor, in Pierpont-st. About 150 clergy were present; also six bishops and two or three Canadian clergymen, Admirals Stringham and Godon, Commodore Eagle, and Capt. Almy. But few Brooklyn people were present, as the invitations were designed for strangers. A number of ladies and gentlemen from New-York were also received. The evening service was commenced in the church at 8 o'clock, and it was conducted according to the following programme:

Opening Anthem, "Blessed is He that cometh,"—in A	J. M. Loretz, jr
Evening Prayer to Psalter	Rev. Mr. Paddock
Eighth Selection of Psalms	Rev. Dr. Haskin
"Gloria in Excelsis,"	
1st Lesson, Isaiah lv	Rev. Mr. McIlvaine
"Cantate Domino,"—in A	Bridgewater
2d Lesson, Rom. viii	The Rev. Mr. Jessup
"Benedic Anima Mea," in A	"Church Choir"
Creed and Prayers	The Rev. Dr. F. Vinton
112th Psalm—"With my whole heart," &c.	The Rev. Mr. Brewer
Historical Discourse	Bishop of Long Island
268th Hymn—"Sun of My Soul"	The Rev. Mr. Postlethwaite
Collects	The Rev. Dr. Drowne
Benediction	Bishop of Long Island
Hallelujah Chorus	Handel's "Messiah"

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL—TARE AND DRAFT ON COTTON.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday at 10 a. m. for the purpose of appointing a delegate to represent the Chamber at the opening of the Suez Canal. President William E. Dodge said that he had received a dispatch similar to one already published in THE TRIBUNE, from the Khedive's representative in Paris, I. Nabaraony, requesting his attendance at the inauguration of the Suez Canal. It would be perfectly impossible for him to accept the invitation, much as he would wish to attend at the consummation of an undertaking accomplished in the midst of so many difficulties, an undertaking taking rank with the Atlantic Cable, and our own Pacific Railroad, and the influence of which on the future of the world's commerce the wildest dreams of fancy cannot too highly portray. He thought that the Chamber could not make a better selection for their representative than Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles, now in Paris, who was formerly interested in the canals of this State. Mr. Ruggles was then unanimously elected, and a resolution was passed authorizing the Secretary to convey to the Khedive the thanks of the Chamber of Commerce for his kind invitation. Mr. Maury then read the report of the committee appointed to consider the communication received from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce concerning tare and draft on cotton. The following is thee report:

The committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce to consider the communication of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce recommending tare and draft on cotton purchased in this country, has had the subject under full consideration, and cannot recommend any action on the question. At first sight it would seem that the consumer or the party in England ordering purchases of cotton would get more cotton for his money; but the differences between Liverpool and New-York weights are all so closely allowed, even to the hundredth part of a penny per pound, that this would not be the effect, and no means except a man's own judgment can in either case deal with the case of loss in weight by evaporation, which is an uncertain and often important per centage. Thus, if the Liverpool proposition were adopted, the condition of the trade would not be improved, and a new series of questions and disputes would probably arise. It would be practically impossible to bring about the changes suggested by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. The various local associations in all our ports are constantly engaged in devising improved regulations respecting the purchases and sales of cotton, and all such questions may be safely left in their hands.

This report was signed by Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Maury, and Mr. H. M. Taber, after which the Board adjourned.

NAVAL.

THE STEAMSHIP TENNESSEE—MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The U. S. steamer Tennessee, late Madawaska, is in the Dry Dock, being extensively overhauled; four of her eight boilers have been taken out, and a new two-bladed screw will replace the former four-bladed one. The new one will weigh about 13 tuns. A spar-deck will be added to the vessel so that her battery will be housed. Many of the officers of the Navy do not like the spar-deck, as their bulwarks are so low as to afford no shelter to the men. The Tennessee will have only two smoke-stacks. Her keel will also be deepened, so as to enable her to "hold on" better under canvas.

Chief Engineer W. W. Dungan has succeeded in arranging and perfecting a smoke stack in three or more sections, which is an improvement of great value, especially in vessels with shallow holds.

Jas. Mowat who fell into the hold of the Colorado on Saturday, has since died. His whole body was paralyzed shortly after he was removed from the Navy-Yard, and he never recovered for a moment the use of a limb. His tongue was nearly cut in twain.

The Navy Department has purchased from the Morgan Iron Works a floating derrick, for the use of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Last year the expense of hiring derricks and advertising for proposals to lift and move machinery and boilers was about $60,000, besides the time lost in shifting vessels, &c. The gas-pipe arrangement called a derrick or shears at the Navy-Yard has always been a source of inconvenience and annoyance. Now the Brooklyn officials have a useful and valuable auxiliary, which can be towed to the vessel requiring its services.

The screw propeller to replace the one of duplex pattern now in use is nearly ready for the United States steamer Severn. As soon as she can be docked it will be put on and, after another trial trip, she will hoist the broad pennant of Rear-Admiral C. H. Poor.

The Guerriere will be commissioned as a flag-ship when completed.

TRIAL OF FIRE LADDERS.

The relative merits of two rival inventions in the way of fire ladders were tested yesterday afternoon at the American Institute Fair Grounds on Third-ave. The first was Perry & Watson's machine called the American Extension Ladder. At 3½ p. m. this machine was run to a tall building on Third-ave., fronting the Rink. Here it was elevated between the house and the telegraph wires by four men, represented to be inexperienced hands, and a man was placed on the roof of the building, the time occupied in the whole process being three minutes. The man was taken off the roof, after which the machine was lifted away from the building and put back again by turning winches at the bottom. The ladder was then turned around in the direction of the length of the avenue, elevated to its full hight, which is 70 feet, and a man placed on the top, the machine at this time standing out in the avenue, and having no contact with the building. Then it was lowered, coupled up, and run down the avenue several blocks at a full gallop. This machine can turn in its own length, which is 34 feet, horses included, and has no tiller. The entire weight is 20 cwt. The machine consists of a carriage in two parts, to the hind part of which the slide ladders are attached, and on the front part is attached a hose-reel, to carry six lengths of hose. By detaching the hind and fore parts the ladders are brought to the ground at an angle of 45 degrees, and in that position can be moved to any spot required by four men, and raised to any angle and any hight in 1½ minutes, the inventor asserts. By attaching the hose to the pipes fastened to the side of the slide ladder two streams of water can be projected from a hight of 60 feet by a man at the top. The ladder is self-supporting, and carries all the extra ladders, hooks, axes, lanterns, &c., that the ordinary truck does. The other and competing ladder was the National Self-Supporting Fire-Ladder and Escape. This machine was maneuvered in the vacant space between the Rink and Third-ave., but the experiment yesterday was not considered satisfactory by the patentee, because the machine had unfortunately been put out of order. An important roller had by some means become broken, it is supposed, by mischievous boys who had tampered with the machine. However, even in its imperfect condition, it was elevated to its full hight, 76 feet, by four men in 4½ minutes. It was swung round, a six-foot ladder cast out at top, and some other of its advantages were shown. The judges recommended the repair of the machine, and hoped another exhibition would be given at an early day. The inventors of this machine claim that it is the only one which is entirely self-supporting. It is worked by four men and drawn by two horses. Telegraph wires, awning posts, and the like, do not interfere with its action. It can be elevated or depressed to any angle, and by means of a turn-table can be made to face in any direction. Capt. Carr and Mr. Harrison of *The American Artisan* acted as judges on the occasion. There was a considerable number of spectators, who felt much interested in the trial.

BOARD OF EDUCATION—THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Board of Education met at 5 p. m. yesterday, President Larremore in the chair. A communication was received from the City Superintendent, setting forth that since the first of the present month the several schools have been visited by the members of his Department, and a general inspection made of their condition, attendance, grade of classes, &c., &c. The records show that on the 29th of September there were present in the several departments the following number of pupils: Male grammar schools, 15,663; female grammar schools, 14,312; primary departments and schools, 57,259; aggregate 87,234. Whole number of pupils on the register of the schools on the 1st inst, 101,047; number present in the colored schools, 836; number on the register, 1,168; average attendance during September—male grammar schools, 14,666; female grammar schools, 12,851; primary departments and schools, 52,862; aggregate of 80,379; the same month last year the average attendance was 79,016. The whole number of classes in the various schools is 1,760, and the number of teachers, exclusive of principals, 1,947, there being 195 teachers who are not required to attend regularly to the instruction of classes. Of the whole number of teachers, 480, or about 22½ per cent, were absent from duty during some portion of the month of September; 306 on account of sickness, and the remainder from other causes; the number of days lost by the absences of teachers during the month was 1,478¼, or 3½ per cent of the whole number of days of service during the month. The Evening Schools have been visited, and they were found to be generally well attended; 5,764 males and 2,598 females were registered. In nearly all the Wards there are classes of Germans who attend for the purpose of learning the English language, and they are taught by competent teachers of their own nationality. In the Fifth Ward, there is one class consisting of Frenchmen, who are taught by an experienced instructor. The report was ordered to be printed. A communication was received from Mr. Vanderpoel of counsel to the Board, giving his opinion as to what constituted a "resident" as applied to the admission of pupils in our schools. In an elaborate address, Mr. Vanderpoel, in substance, stated that every minor, resident in the State, is entered at the place of his or her actual bona-fide residence. A resolution was adopted that the salaries of the teachers of the Normal, High, and Evening Schools be paid monthly, the same as those of the teachers of Day Schools. A resolution was adopted that the Finance Committee be instructed to report the propriety of adopting some means by which city bonds may be issued for the payment of all sites and school buildings to be hereafter erected by the Board, and also in what manner school buildings, where not now required, can be disposed of, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of sites and new school buildings in localities where requisite. The Auditing Committee presented the following report upon the examination of the accounts of the Clerk of the Board from Sept. 3 to Oct. 7:

RECEIPTS.		
Balance with the City Chamberlain Sept. 3		$37,586 94
Deposited since by the Controller		305,000 00
Total receipts		$342,586 94
PAYMENTS.		
Warrants outstanding Sept. 3	$13,579 85	
Still outstanding	774 32	
Paid		$12,805 53
Warrants drawn from Sept. 3 to Oct. 7	$293,536 26	
Warrants outstanding	22,849 14	
Paid		$270,687 14
Total payments		$283,492 65
Leaving a balance to the credit of the Board of		$59,094 29

Which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Sands offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That so much of the report of the Special Committee appointed pursuant to Commissioner Sands's resolution of Sept. 15, 1869, as is embraced in Subdivisions III. and IV., on pages 11, 12, and 13, be referred to the Committee on Sites; and so much of said report as is embraced in Subdivision V., from page 13 down to the 15th line of page 14, be referred to the Committee on Course of Studies; and so much of said report as is embraced in the same subdivision, from the 16th line of page 14 to the 8th line of page 15, be referred to the Committee on Normal Schools; and so much of said report as is embraced in the same subdivision from the 9th line of the 15th page to the 8th line on page 17 be referred to the Standing Committee on By-Laws; and that so much of said report as is embraced in the same subdivision from the 7th line of page 17 to the 3d line of page 18 be referred to the Committee on Course of Studies; and so much of said report as is embraced in the same subdivision from line 4 to line 8 of page 18 be referred to the Committee on Sites; and that the remainder of said report be referred to the Finance Committee.

The following is a statement of the School Fund for 1870, made in pursuance of the statutes: Amount from the State, $422,216 92; Amount from the City and County, $422,216 92; 1-20th of one per cent on the taxable property of the City and County of New-York, $964,100,597. Total, $482,050 29. The number taught during the year ending October 1, 1869, was as follows: Ward, Grammar, and Primary Schools, $196,096; Evening Schools, $19,537; Colored Schools, $1,990; Normal Schools, $950. Total number taught, 218,573, at $10, $2,185,730. Total fund: $3,512,214 13.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT THE GRAMERCY PARK HOTEL.

An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at the Gramercy Park Hotel, by Coroner Rollins, over the body of Timothy C. Allyn, who was on Tuesday evening found dead in his room, from the effect of a pistol shot wound in the forehead. From the evidence taken it seems that on Saturday afternoon last the deceased was thrown from a carriage, while riding from Central Park, and received a number of scratches and contusions on the head and face, in consequence of which he kept his room. On Tuesday afternoon several friends called and talked on business affairs, and during their interviews he seemed cheerful. At 6 p. m. dinner was brought to Mr. Allyn, and soon after Mrs. Allyn and her niece, Miss Ada A. Colton, went down to dinner, leaving Mr. Allyn alone. About 7, Mrs. Allyn and her niece returned to their room, and on entering were horrified at seeing Mr. Allyn lying on the floor apparently dead, and with his face covered with blood; they ran from the room screaming for help, which shortly arrived, and Mr. Allyn was found to be dead, a pistol ball having entered the forehead and passed into the brain. Mrs. Allyn testified that the weapon belonged to her husband, and had been in his possession for several years. He has on several occasions been cautioned, by herself and his mother, against the careless handling of the weapon, and she has many times left the room; and this carelessness, it is generally believed, was ultimately the cause of his death. Mrs. Allyn had never seen any sympton of insanity on his part, and his domestic and business relations were of the most satisfactory character. A verdict of accidental death was rendered. Mr. Allyn was a native of Connecticut, age 40 years; was a member of the firm of White, Allyn & Co., insurance agents, and was well known in business circles.

A BOGUS DETECTIVE BROUGHT TO GRIEF.

For some time past Messrs. Payne, Berry & Co., of No. 16 White-st., have missed quantities of revenue and postage stamps. Two boys in their employ were finally accused of the theft, and they confessed their guilt, adding that they sold the stamps in a Nassau-st. store. On several occasions, however, the proceeds of these sales had been taken from them by a man representing himself to be a detective. One of the boys was in the habit of visiting the bank daily, and the "detective" learning that he would be sent yesterday for $1,000 in small bills, arranged to take the package from the boy, who was to say that he had been robbed by an unknown man soon after leaving the bank. Capt. Petty and Detective Field were informed of these facts, and they gave the boy a marked package to deliver to the stranger. The officers yesterday posted themselves where they could watch the boy's movements. They saw him leave the bank, and after walking a short distance, he was met by a man, who, after short conversation, took the marked package. As soon as he had done so, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to the Leonard-st. Police Station, where he gave the name of William Campbell. He was locked up, and will be taken before Justice Hogan to-day. The members of the firm are not disposed to prosecute the boys.

BOARD OF HEALTH—THE RENDERING CO. AGAIN.

The Board of Health was in session yesterday, and received a complaint against the slaughtering of cattle on the premises No. 610 West Forty-seventh-st. and No. 622 West Forty-eighth-st., which was referred to the Superintendent of Sanitary Inspection. A report of the Superintendent, in relation to fat melting in this city, was received and placed on file. The following resolutions were then adopted and the Board adjourned:

Resolved, That the carcass of all the dead animals brought to the dock of the New-York Rendering Co., foot of Thirty-eighth-st., North River, shall be placed in tanks as soon as practicable, and until disposed of shall be covered and disinfected as to prevent offensive smells, and that the cutting up of carcasses of animals shall be conducted in a room so thoroughly disinfected and so completely closed during the process of cutting and handling as to prevent all offensive smells from contaminating the outer air.

Resolved, That Mr. H. A. Burr of the corner of Frankfort and Cliff-sts., who has made complaint concerning the administration of this Board, be requested to appear before the Board at 1 o'clock on Wednesday next, and publicly present any complaint or statement he may have to make concerning the Board or any of its officers or agents.

NATIONAL GUARD INSPECTIONS.

The 6th Regiment N. G., Col. Joel Mason, was inspected yesterday by Major Godfrey, and passed in review before Gen. Burger and staff. At 8 o'clock the Regiment formed at their headquarters, Centre Market, and marched up the Bowery to Tompkins Parade-Ground. The several battalion evolutions showed good discipline and practice. Three hundred and forty-six members of the Regiment were present, 115 absent, and 43 recruits; line, field and staff officers complete....The 12th Regiment, Col. Ward, was inspected yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, on Tompkins Parade-Ground, by Major Gilon, and passed in review by Gen. Ward and staff. The Regiment was 280 strong, and presented a fine appearance, the review in double-quick time being especially commendable. Line, field and staff complete.